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Subject: Morning Consult Washington: Iowa Heats Up Democratic Presidential Race With First Nominating Contest

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M WASHINGTON

By [Eli Yokley](#)

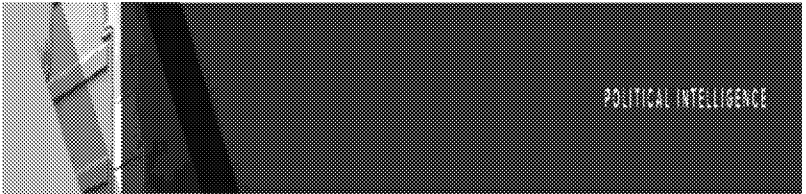
Top Stories

- Iowa Democrats will hold the first presidential nominating contest of the year tonight, with looming uncertainty about who will win the caucuses and new rules for reporting results that could obscure the state of the race heading into the New Hampshire primary on Feb. 11. The Iowa Democratic Party will report three sets of results at the end of the caucuses, with no guarantee that all three will show the same victor: The "first alignment" winner, the winner of the "final alignment" and who won the total number of delegate equivalents. ([The Associated Press](#))
- Senate Republicans appear to be breaking with President Donald Trump's defense that he did nothing wrong in his dealings with Ukraine that led to his impeachment, even as they are set to acquit him this week. Yesterday, Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) expanded on his criticism that Trump was "crossing the line" in pressuring Ukraine's government to open investigations into his domestic political rivals, while Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) said what Trump did with Ukraine was "not what I would have done." ([The New York Times](#))
- Officials confirmed three more cases of coronavirus in California, bringing the total number of U.S. cases to 11. Along with declaring a public health emergency and limiting travel from China, the Trump administration has quarantined 195 Americans who were

evacuated from Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the outbreak, at a military base in Southern California until mid-February. (CBS News)

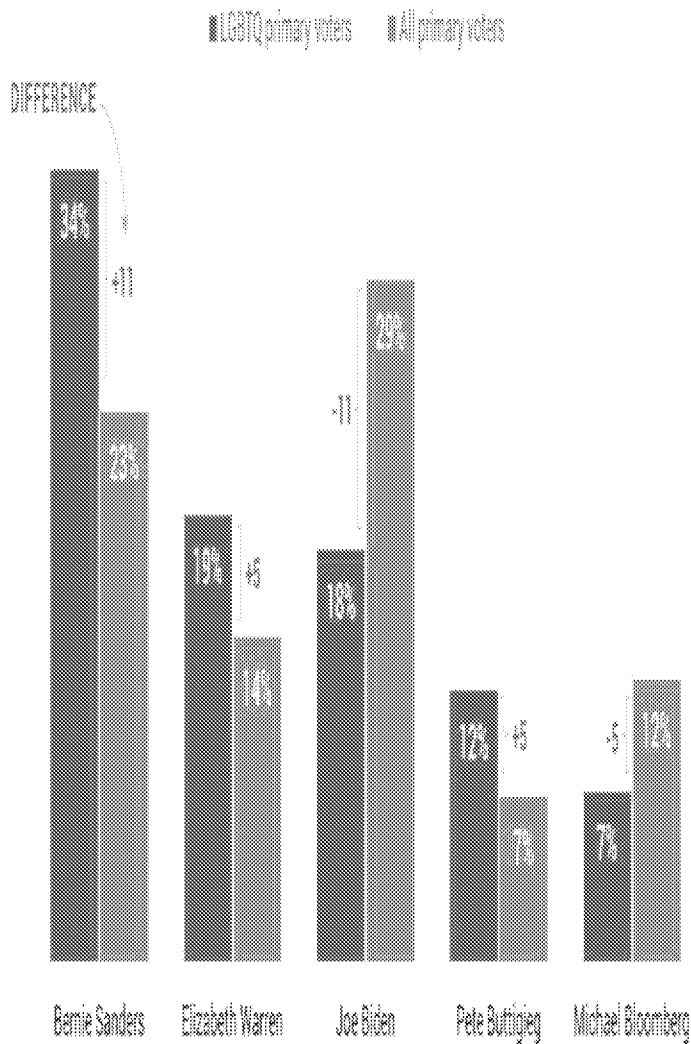
Chart Review

Bernie Sanders Has a Big Lead With LGBTQ Voters
Morning Consult



LGBTQ Primary Voters Most Likely to Back Bernie Sanders

Democratic primary voters were asked whom they would vote for if the primary or caucus in their state were held today



Events Calendar (All Times Local)

02/03/2020

Iowa caucuses

Public Affairs Council hosts The Advocacy Conference

02/04/2020

Public Affairs Council hosts The Advocacy Conference

Janet Yellen, David Malpass participate in Bipartisan Policy Center event 9:30 am

Rep. McCaul participates in AEI event on China 10:00 am

Trump to deliver State of the Union address 9:00 pm

02/05/2020

Public Affairs Council hosts The Advocacy Conference

Biden, Warren, Yang and Steyer participate in CNN New Hampshire town halls

House Energy & Commerce subcommittee holds hearing on vaping 10:30 am

Preet Bharara participates in New Republic event 7:30 pm

02/06/2020

Sanders, Buttigieg, Klobuchar and Patrick participate in CNN New Hampshire town halls

Attorney general, FBI director participate in CSIS event on China

8:00
am

U.S. ambassador to NATO participates in Heritage Foundation event

4:30
pm

02/07/2020

Energy secretary participates in Atlantic Council event

10:30 am

Democratic presidential debate in New Hampshire

8:00 pm

[View full calendar](#)



Special Report: The State of Consumer Trust

As the new decade begins, Morning Consult's **The State of Consumer Trust** report is the first look at how today's societal forces are shaping a new era of trust. Based on interviews with thousands of consumers, the report provides actionable intelligence into how companies can earn and deepen trust with customers.

[Download the full report.](#)

General

Wuhan Coronavirus Looks Increasingly Like a Pandemic, Experts Say

Donald G. McNeil Jr., The New York Times

The Wuhan coronavirus spreading from China is now likely to become a pandemic that circles the globe, according to many of the world's leading infectious disease experts. The prospect is daunting.

China Blasts U.S. for 'Overreaction' to Virus, Spreading Fear

Karen Leigh and Dandan Li, Bloomberg

China said the U.S. "inappropriately overreacted" to the deadly virus that originated there and hasn't provided much help to counter the outbreak, disputing the Trump administration's claim that it offered assistance. "The U.S. government hasn't provided any substantial assistance to us, but it was the first to evacuate personnel from its consulate in Wuhan, the first to suggest partial withdrawal of its embassy staff, and the first to impose a travel ban on Chinese travelers," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters on Monday.

Al Qaeda Claims It Directed Florida Naval Base Shooting

Declan Walsh, The New York Times

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula claimed on Sunday that it directed a Saudi military officer to carry out the shooting at a United States military base in Florida in December that killed three sailors and wounded eight people. In an audio recording released on Sunday, the leader of the Yemen-based group, Qassim al-Rimi, claimed responsibility for the Dec. 6 attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola, according to SITE, an organization that tracks jihadist media.

'Truly bizarre circumstances': Anonymous book agents refute
whisper campaign against Trump official
Blake Hounshell, Politico

The agents for the senior Trump administration official who penned an anonymous New York Times op-ed and best-selling book are breaking their silence to swat down a whisper campaign pinning the unnamed writings on a top National Security Council aide - citing "truly bizarre circumstances" that forced their hand. "Over the past weeks and months, there has been continual speculation as to the identity of the author known as Anonymous," Javelin co-founder Matt Latimer, who brokered the book deal for "A Warning," plans to say in a forthcoming statement obtained by POLITICO.

Justice Clarence Thomas Questions Proposal to Bar Judges
From Membership in Ideological Groups
Jess Braven, The Wall Street Journal

Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas questioned a proposed ethics rule that would discourage federal judges from belonging to the conservative Federalist Society and its liberal counterpart, the American Constitution Society. Justice Thomas has long participated in events sponsored by the Federalist Society, which has groomed many of President Trump's judicial nominees.

Leak: Man Who Bankrolled Brexit Boasted of WikiLeaks
Backchannel
Nico Hines, The Daily Beast

The man who bankrolled the campaign for Britain to quit the European Union boasted about a backchannel to WikiLeaks after Brexit leader Nigel Farage's secret meeting with Julian Assange at the Ecuadorean embassy in London, according to private Twitter messages that have been leaked online. The messages hacked from Farage's biggest financial backer, Arron Banks, also raise legal questions over the involvement of Cambridge Analytica in the Brexit referendum, undeclared lobbying efforts in the U.S. on behalf of a foreign power, and a breach of data-protection law by pro-Brexit campaigners.

White House & Administration

NOAA Leaders Privately Disowned Agency's Rebuke of
Scientists Who Contradicted Trump
Lisa Friedman et al., The New York Times

Senior officials with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration privately disavowed an unsigned statement issued by the agency last year that rebuked its own weather forecasters for contradicting President Trump's false warnings that Hurricane Dorian would most likely hit Alabama, new documents show. Emails obtained under public records laws show top leaders scrambling to do damage control in the days after Mr. Trump appeared in the Oval Office on Sept. 4 with an altered map of Hurricane Dorian's path, and forecasters in the Birmingham, Ala., office of the National Weather Service then contradicted him by assuring the public they were safe.

'A massive historical story': Trump's impending acquittal could have profound ramifications for future presidents
Philip Rucker, The Washington Post

The evidence of President Trump's actions to pressure Ukraine was never in serious dispute. After a systematic presentation of the facts of the case, even some Senate Republicans concluded that what he did was wrong.

Trump speech to project optimism at time of bitter division
Jill Colvin, The Associated Press

Standing before lawmakers in the grand-domed Capitol where his impeachment trial is still underway, President Donald Trump on Tuesday night will declare the state of the union strong, even when it is bitterly divided as he asks Americans for a second term. After becoming just the third president in U.S. history to be impeached, Trump will try to move forward, aides say, offering an optimistic message that stresses economic growth in his annual address before Congress.

Impeachment All but Behind Him, Trump Celebrates and Keeps Focus on Bloomberg
Katie Rogers, The New York Times

On many levels, President Trump's weekend - full of golf, catered salmon and plenty of patriotic-themed evening wear - could have been devised to offer relief and a sense of triumph to a president who spent the first month of an election year watching from the sidelines as the Senate debated his future. With his acquittal all but final, the president passed from table to table in the dining room of his golf club on Saturday quizzing his buddies on the 2020 election, at times lingering long enough to complain about his impeachment ordeal.

Court filing points to Trump emails on Ukraine decision
The Associated Press

The Trump administration says in a court filing that two dozen emails revealing details of President Donald Trump's decision-making regarding withholding military assistance to Ukraine, which goes to the heart of his impeachment, are protected from a lawsuit under "presidential privilege." The existence of the 24 emails was acknowledged in a late Friday filing by the Justice Department in response to a lawsuit by the Center for Public Integrity that seeks the release of the emails without redaction.

Trump's Ag Dept. seeks to cut programs without knowing how many people get hurt

Ryan McCrimmon, Politico

In a rare bipartisan move last June, Republicans and Democrats teamed up to scuttle an Agriculture Department proposal that would have shuttered job training centers for at-risk youth across the country - an idea that blindsided lawmakers and seemed to lack much explanation or underlying data. Rep. Dan Newhouse blasted Secretary Sonny Perdue's plan, which he said would close some of the highest-performing facilities in the popular program, contrary to USDA's claims.

A little-noticed Medicaid proposal could have huge consequences

Caitlin Owens, Axios

Major health industry groups, governors and state Medicaid directors have all raised significant concerns with a Trump administration proposal that would change the rules and oversight of some forms of state Medicaid financing. Why it matters: Billions of dollars are on the line for both states and providers, which they say in turn threatens the health care of some of America's most vulnerable people.

Senate

Lindsey Graham: Senate Intelligence Committee will call Ukraine whistleblower

Daniel Chaitin, The Washington Examiner

The Senate Intelligence Committee plans to call the whistleblower whose complaint was the impetus for impeachment proceedings against President Trump, according to a top Republican senator. With impeachment headed to a likely acquittal next week, Sen. Lindsey Graham described on Sunday how Republicans in the chamber are gearing up for investigations on three fronts.

Joe Biden Could Be Impeached by GOP Over Ukraine if He Wins, Iowa Senator Says
Jennifer Epstein, Bloomberg

Iowa Senator Joni Ernst warned Sunday that Republicans could immediately push to impeach Joe Biden over his work in Ukraine as vice president if he win the White House. "I think this door of impeachable whatever has been opened," Ernst said in an interview with Bloomberg News.

Republican Sen. Susan Collins finds it's lonely in the middle
Griff Witte, The Washington Post

When Sen. Susan Collins declared late last week her support for calling witnesses to Capitol Hill, she became the first Republican member of Congress to formally break with the president on any aspect of his impeachment. Here in Maine, where the famously independent Collins is locked in a tight reelection campaign, the choice elicited a wintry mix of cold shoulders and icy glares.

House

Nancy Pelosi: It was 'sad' for Mitch McConnell to 'humiliate' Chief Justice John Roberts with witness vote
Jeanine Santucci, USA Today

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., denounced Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., for the Senate vote that rejected witnesses in the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump. "It is a sad day for America to see Senator McConnell humiliate the Chief Justice of the United States into presiding over a vote which rejected our nation's judicial norms, precedents and institutions which uphold the Constitution and the rule of law," Pelosi said Saturday on Twitter.

2020

Iowa Could Have Multiple Candidates Declare Victory. Let Us Show You How.
Nate Cohn, The New York Times

The Iowa caucuses could be messy. On Monday night, for the first time, there will be four sets of results, and there is no guarantee that the same candidate will win them all.

John Kerry overheard discussing possible 2020 bid amid concern of 'Sanders taking down the Democratic Party'
Jonathan Allen and Allan Smith, NBC News

Former Secretary of State John Kerry - one of Joe Biden's highest-profile endorsers - was overheard Sunday on the phone at a Des Moines hotel explaining what he would have to do to enter the presidential race amid "the possibility of Bernie Sanders taking down the Democratic Party - down whole." Sitting in the lobby restaurant of the Renaissance Savery hotel, Kerry was overheard by an NBC News analyst saying "maybe I'm f-ing deluding myself here" and explaining that in order to run, he'd have to step down from the board of Bank of America and give up his ability to make paid speeches.

Whoever Wins Iowa, They Won't Be Back
Tim Alberta, Politico

The exhausted voters of Iowa, who for decades have been trapped in a continual churn of presidential politics, are about to get a long-awaited reprieve. And not just because caucus season ends tonight.

Rivals warn Sanders campaign plans to game Iowa results
Natasha Korecki, Politico

Rival campaigns are sounding the alarm that Bernie Sanders could be planning to claim victory on Monday night - before the caucuses are concluded. It's a move, they say, that could have a significant effect on the outcome.

Sanders once likened poor whites to blacks under Apartheid
Marc Caputo and Laura Barrón-Lopez, Politico

Bernie Sanders once compared poor white Vermonters to black South Africans suffering under Apartheid. At other times, he likened the plight of some working people as well as imported foreign laborers to slavery.

Pete Buttigieg's Iowa delegate play
Elena Schneider, Politico

Over the past three weeks, Pete Buttigieg swept through midsize Iowa cities in Obama-Trump counties, a go-everywhere attempt to deliver on his closing message of bringing in Democrats, independents and former Republicans and promote the idea of electability. But the travel schedule

was also calibrated to the Iowa caucuses' specific, esoteric rules - and Buttigieg's best chance of making a big splash on Monday.

Raising Bernie as Bernie rises

Jonathan Swan, Axios

Bernie Sanders has surged to the front of the polls ahead of Monday's Iowa caucuses. And some of Trump's political advisers say they are doing their best to help him stay there. Behind the scenes: "We're trying to promote the rise," said a Trump adviser.

Loeffler works to gain traction with conservatives amid Collins primary bid

Juliegrace Brufke, The Hill

Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R-Ga.) is taking steps to earn support from the conservative flank of the Republican party as she faces what is expected to be a heated primary battle for her Senate seat against Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.). Loeffler, a wealthy financial executive who Gov. Brian Kemp appointed to fill the seat of Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) after he stepped down at the end of last year due to a series of health issues, has previously faced accusations from conservative groups of being too moderate.

With a month to go, crowded Democratic primary to challenge Cornyn remains full of uncertainty

Patrick Svitek, The Texas Tribune

With a month until election day, the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate in Texas remains fraught with uncertainty about who is best positioned to qualify for an all-but-guaranteed runoff. The crowded field has long been unsettled, but any prospects of at least some candidates breaking away from the pack are now running into the short timeline ahead of the March 3 vote.

States

After State Of The Union, Spotlight Will Turn To Michigan's Democratic Governor

Rick Pluta, NPR News

Democrats chose Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to give the English response to the State of the Union Address. But in Michigan, some wonder if she can live up to expectations.

Advocacy

As Congress talks climate policy, carbon price gets no love
Amy Harder, Axios

New lobbying urging Congress to support a price on carbon emissions is not convincing lawmakers to warm up to the policy. A carbon price is widely considered one of the most economically efficient ways to tackle climate change.

NRA Wins Repeal of Los Angeles Law Group Said Was About Shaming
Edvard Pettersson, Bloomberg

The National Rifle Association won its challenge to a Los Angeles ordinance that it claimed was aimed at ridiculing and boycotting its supporters by requiring city contractors to disclose any business ties with the gun rights group. The Los Angeles City Council repealed the ordinance on Jan. 21, lawyers for the NRA and city noted in a joint request to end the lawsuit and permanently block the city from enforcing the measure.

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

Are the Democrats Completely Screwing This Up?
Andy Kroll, Rolling Stone

Take your mind back there. Miami. June 2019. Two nights, 20 candidates. A portrait of the Democratic Party in miniature assembled onstage, mics on, ready to debate.

Democrats May Be Blowing Their Chance
Rahm Emanuel, The Wall Street Journal

Reform is often more effective than revolution. Amid the heated rhetoric now blowing through Iowa, Democrats appear to be losing sight of that.

Research Reports and Polling

The Road to Milwaukee: How the Democratic Primary Will Unfold

Kyle Kondik, Sabato's Crystal Ball

The voting in the Democratic presidential contest is finally upon us. Iowa begins the march to the July Democratic National Convention, followed by New Hampshire, Nevada, and South Carolina in February. These early contests will get loads of attention throughout the month, although the dirty little secret is that, together, they only account for a pittance of the delegates that will be awarded in the primaries and caucuses.

Americans Stuck to Their Views on Trump Through Impeachment Trial

Aaron Zitner, The Wall Street Journal

President Trump is emerging from the four-month impeachment process with little sign of damage to his political standing, even though a majority of voters believes he carried out the acts that House Democrats charge in their articles of impeachment, a new Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll finds. Some 46% of voters in the survey said the Senate should remove Mr. Trump from office at the end of the impeachment trial, while 49% said he should serve out his term.



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